

What is claimed is:

1. A method of sharing still images between first and second computers connected to an internetwork for exchanging network packets therebetween, wherein each of said computers has a respective private IP address within said internetwork, said method comprising the steps of:
  - maintaining a central server coupled to said internetwork and containing a database of IP addresses of registered computers;
  - running first and second call clients in said first and second computers, respectively, for establishing a data call between said first and second computers in response to said database of IP addresses, said data call comprising live video exchange from at least one video camera coupled to one of said first and second computers and comprising a network session between said first and second call clients;
  - establishing a voice telephone call between first and second users of said first and second computers, respectively, at least one of said first and second users being seen in said live video exchange;
  - said first user initiating a first image viewer subclient under control of said first call client;
  - said first image viewer subclient loading and displaying still image data specified by said first user on said first computer;
  - said first image viewer subclient transmitting said still image data to said second computer using said network session;
  - said second call client in said second computer receiving said still image data, running a second image viewer subclient, and loading said still image data into said second image viewer subclient; and
  - said second image viewer subclient displaying said still image data on said second computer;

wherein said live video exchange is maintained simultaneously with display of said still image data by said image viewer subclients.

5           2. The method of claim 1 wherein said network session is comprised of direct transmissions between said first and second computers as source and destination of said transmissions, respectively.

10           3. The method of claim 1 wherein said network session is comprised of a first network session between said first computer and said central server and a second network session between said second computer and said central server, whereby said central server relays said live video  
15 exchange and said still image data.

            4. The method of claim 1 wherein said still image data is comprised of an array of pictures, and wherein said pictures are displayed in succession by said first and  
20 second image viewer subclients substantially simultaneously.

            5. The method of claim 4 wherein progression through said array is controlled in response to a timing sequence specified by said first user.  
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            6. The method of claim 4 wherein progression through said array is controlled in response to manual control signals generated by said first user or said second user.

30           7. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitted still image data is compressed data and wherein said second image viewer subclient decompresses said still image data prior to displaying.

35           8. The method of claim 1 wherein said voice telephone call is established in response to a target

telephone number, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting said target telephone number to said central server for determining one of said IP addresses.

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9. Computer apparatus for privately sharing still images residing in said computer apparatus with a remote computer via an internetwork for exchanging network packets, said computer apparatus and said remote computer having  
10 respective private IP addresses within said internetwork, said computer apparatus comprising:

a call client for transmitting information identifying said remote computer to a central server maintaining a database of IP addresses of registered  
15 computers, and for establishing a data call between said computer apparatus and said remote computer in response to said database of IP addresses, said data call comprising live video exchange from at least one video camera coupled to one of said computer apparatus or said remote computer,  
20 and said data call comprising a network session; and

an image viewer subclient under control of said call client for loading and displaying still image data specified on said first computer and for transmitting said still image data to said remote computer using said network session;

25 wherein said live video exchange is maintained simultaneously with display of said still image data by said image viewer subclient.

10. The computer apparatus of claim 9 wherein said  
30 image viewer subclient comprises a user interface responsive to a user for specifying said still image data as an array of pictures.

11. The computer apparatus of claim 10 wherein said  
35 user interface is further responsive to said user for

specifying a progression for successively displaying said pictures.

12. The computer apparatus of claim 9 further  
5 comprising a telephone interface for capturing a target  
telephone number dialed on a telephone connected to said  
telephone interface, wherein said captured target telephone  
number is transmitted as said information identifying said  
remote computer.

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13. A software product for privately sharing still  
images in conjunction with a video telephony call between a  
resident computer and a remote computer via a computer  
network for video and a public switched telephone network  
15 for audio, the software product comprising:

software configured to:

transmit information identifying said remote  
computer to a central server maintaining a database  
of IP addresses of registered computers;

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to establish a data call between said resident  
computer and said remote computer in response to said  
database of IP addresses, said data call comprising  
live video exchange from at least one video camera  
coupled to one of said resident computer or said  
remote computer, and said data call comprising a  
network session; and

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to direct an image viewer subclient to load and  
display still image data specified on said resident  
computer and to transmit said still image data to  
30 said remote computer using said network session,  
wherein said live video exchange is maintained  
simultaneously with display of said still image data  
by said image viewer subclient; and  
a storage system that stores said software product.

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